

REMARKS:

Claims 1, 2 and 4-30 are now pending in the application, with claims 1, 4, 13, 19, 20 and 23 being the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 3-11, 13, 19, 20 and 23 recite allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant continues to believe that all other pending claims also should be indicated as allowable. However, in order to obtain early allowance Applicant has amended the claims above to take on the subject matter that has been indicated as being allowable.

More specifically, in the amendments above former dependent claim 3 has been canceled and its limitations have been incorporated into independent claim 1. In addition, the limitations of former independent claim 1 have been incorporated into former dependent claims 4, 13, 19, 20 and 23, and each of those former dependent claims has been rewritten into independent form. Finally, new dependent claims 27-30, which correspond to former dependent claims 4, 14, 15 and 23, respectively, have been added. In view of these amendments, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

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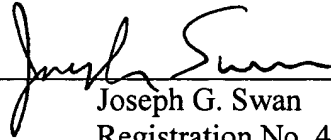
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